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By W NARA Date 7/9/07

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PEKING 019

July 18, 1973

To: Henry A Kissinger

From: Jenkins and Holdridge

Ref: Washington 018

1. We believe unless you have prior, clear indication that your visit first half of August could result in significant progress on Cambodia settlement it would be better for you to come somewhat later, possibly early September - - exact timing to be influenced in part by post-bombing developments. Magnuson's irritation of Premier on subject of bombing, which Chou made no offer to hide, has made the subject more sensitive than ever here.
2. Chinese still want at least a temporary settlement in Indo-china but seem confident that Cambodian settlement on terms agreeable to Sihanouk is increasingly likely, if not inevitable. Chinese might be content if this eventuates, of course. At same time our bilateral relations are so much more important to them that they probably would be disposed to help us extricate ourselves respectably if they saw a way. They may think that things have now gone too far for them to help very much.
3. We believe frank discussion with the Chinese concerning the date of your trip in context Cambodia possibilities is best course. It could add to their sense of responsibility for their part in the success for your visit.
4. Possibility exists that preparations for rumored party congress in August might both make trip according to present plans inconvenient, and also afford credible explanation for delay if you decide to delay for other reasons.
5. Warm regards.